

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 was found to be directed to allowable subject matter but was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 8 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been rewritten to include the allowable subject matter of Claims 7 and 8 (with the paragraph of the claim reciting "a protecting circuit" modified somewhat). Claim 2 and dependent Claims 4-6 and 9-14 should now be allowed.

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 8 have been cancelled.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of amended Claim 2 (including the allowable subject matter of Claim 8). Claim 16 has been made dependent upon amended Claim 15. Claims 15 and 16 should also be allowed.

The foregoing amendments have been made to expedite the prosecution of this application, without acceding to the rejections. Incidentally, the rejection of Claims 4-6

under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) relies upon "the applicant admitted prior art (AAPA), Fig. 3A". Fig 3A has been designated as "background art", not admitted prior art.

This application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NHS:lat:jb

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